

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, and 27-54 are pending in this application. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

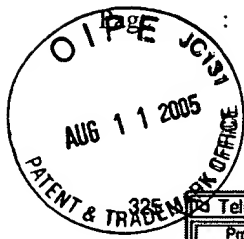
Claims 4, 6, 18, 30 and 37-39 were objected to because of a number of informalities. Claim 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 37 to 39 have been amended. One example of a hypertext transport protocol is "HTTP," support for which can be found at page 6, lines 15-19 of the specification. Another example of a hypertext transport protocol is "HTTPS," support for which can be found in FIG. 6 of the specification. No new matter has been added. No amendments were made to claims 6, 18, and 30, as the applicant respectfully submits that amending the claims in the manner suggested by the examiner could amount to an inaccurate characterization of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 5-13, 17-25, and 29-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Breneman (US 5,974,135).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method that includes "enabling the first party to access the account data ... the enabling comprising displaying a Web page including information corresponding to the account data [associated with the account of the second party], the displayed Web page having an appearance that is substantially similar to an appearance of a Web page displayed when the second party accesses the account data."

In Breneman, data such as customer name, account number, prior transactions, and account balances for customers are stored in a customer database system. [col. 6, lines 55-58]. Breneman discloses that an agent can access a customer's data stored in the customer database system through a user interface (see FIG. 4 below) of a teleservice workstation manager.



Teleservices Workstation

Property: North Kansas City
Ticket Casino Hotel
429a 429b 429c
A PRONUS COMPANY

Sign On
System HARRAH'S1
Subsystem QINTER
Display HTC5003NKC

HARRAH'S

Casinos

Enter User Id . . .
Password

(C) COPYRIGHT IBM CORP. 1980, 1994

Patron Information (Control - Alt)
Last Name (L) McConomy
First (F) John
Address 1 (A) 1234 Maple Street
Address 2 (D)
City (C) Memphis
State (S) TN [X] Zip (Z) 38117 [X] Country (O) US [X]

Push Pub Gold Card 1234-5678-90
426 428 Gaming Theoretical 1,234
423 424 Home (H) (901) 555-1111
Business (B) (901) 555-2222

Connected to 9015782588 425 Break Logout Call Work Line 1 Line 2 2/6 8:25 A
433 441 445 437 439
427

FIG. 4

Specifically, the agent can view the customer's data when it is displayed in the customer data display area 423 of the user interface. Although Breneman is silent about whether a customer is able to access his own customer data, it is clear from FIG. 4 that the user interface that is displayed to the agent is unlikely to have an appearance that is substantially similar to an appearance of a user interface that may be displayed when the customer himself access the customer data. For example, the user interface of FIG. 4 includes a display screen 403 for displaying terminal emulation interfaces that enable the agent to interact with different host computer systems (e.g., a ticketing/reservation host computer system, a lodging management host computer system, and a casino management host computer system). There is no reason for such terminal emulation interfaces to be provided to the customer. The applicant submits that Breneman does not disclose or suggest "enabling the first party to access the account data ... the enabling comprising displaying a Web page including information corresponding to the account data [associated with the account of the second party], the displayed Web page having an

appearance that is substantially similar to an appearance of a Web page displayed when the second party accesses the account data." For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claims 13, 25, 40, 41, and 42 are patentable for at least some of the reasons given with respect to claim 1.

Claim 9 recites a method of providing a first party with access to an account of a second party that includes "receiving identification information associated with the first party that does not contain an authenticator of the second party; [and] verifying that the first party is entitled to access account data associated with the account of the second party based on the identification information and account information that defines a right of the first party to access the account data."

Although Breneman may disclose validating the agent's user ID and password against the agent identification information stored in a configuration database, Breneman does not disclose or suggest "verifying that the first party is entitled to access account data associated with the account of the second party based on the identification information and account information that defines a right of the first party to access the account data," as required in claim 9. Rather, Breneman discloses:

If the agent's password is valid, the workstation database module 305 is called 615 to get the properties associated with the agent from the configuration database 206. The teleservices workstation manager 201 then initializes the property button 405 and its menu of properties which the agent is authorized to service.... Authorized properties may be all ticketing, all hotel, all casino, or any combination of these; there may be only one authorized property or more than one. [col. 12, lines 27-42].

What is important to note from the above-quoted paragraph is that there is no disclosure or suggestion that Breneman verifies that an agent is entitled to access account data associated a customer based on the identification information and account information. At most, Breneman discloses verifying that the agent is entitled to service certain authorized properties. For at least this reason, claim 9 is patentable.

Independent claims 21 and 33 are patentable for at least some of the reasons given with respect to claim 9.

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons for which the claims on which they depend are patentable.


Furthermore, dependent claims 3-4, 15-16, and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breneman in view of McDonough (US 5,991,878). However, McDonough cannot be relied upon for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because between the filing date (September 8, 1997) of McDonough '878 and the filing date (August 19, 1999) of the present application, McDonough '878 and the claimed invention of the present application were owned by FMR Corporation or subject to an obligation of assignment to FMR Corporation.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed is a \$550.00 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06 1050.

Date: 8/9/05

Respectfully submitted,



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